

25X1

25X1

25X1

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

The 23 October Beirut Bombing:
Was There An Intelligence Failure?

During the weeks and months prior to the bombing, the intelligence community repeatedly warned of possible terrorist attacks against US personnel and installations in Beirut, particularly against the Marine contingent. These warnings [redacted] suggested that radical Shias were targeting the Marines for terrorist attacks. More than 20 such warnings appeared in intelligence publications between June and October, including:

25X1

25X1

[redacted]

25X1

-- Two days before the bombing, the intelligence community monthly warning memorandum stated that "the Marines will remain an easy target for any group that wants to halt the peace process."

-- On 24 September, [redacted] "attacks on MNF personnel and installations are likely to increase as various Muslim militias perceive the US military role as one of support for the Gemayel government." [redacted]

25X1

25X6

None of the reporting, however, cited a specific time, vehicle, or method of attack that would be employed. Although the intelligence community could predict an impending attack in general terms, details of exactly when or how the attack would take place were not available. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

We believe that Muslim extremists, supported by Iran and possibly by Syria, continue to target US military and diplomatic personnel in Beirut for terrorist violence. [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] radical Shias and Palestinians are planning a wide range of possible attacks, including more car bombings. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

These groups, encouraged by the success of the October bombing, believe that repeated attacks will force the MNF contingents to leave Lebanon. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

NESA M#84-10098-CX

25X1

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: The 23 October Beirut Bombing
Was There an Intelligence Failure?

NESA M#84-10098CX

25X1

DISTRIBUTION:

Copy 1 - DCI
Copy 2 - DCI/SA/IA
Copy 3 - DDCI
Copy 4 - DDI
Copy 5 - NIO/NESA
Copy 6,7,8,9 - CPAS/IMD/CB
Copy 10 - C/PES
Copy 11 - D/NESA
Copy 12,13 - NESA/PPS
Copy 14 - NESA/AI
Copy 15,16 - NESA/AI/L
DDI/NESA/AI/L, [REDACTED] (24Jan84)

25X1

25X1